Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

1) (Currently amended) A system for reducing evaporation in a multiwell filtration plate used in centrifugal filtration comprising a centrifuge, a filtration plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, a collection plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, the filtration plate containing a series of wells running through the thickness of the plate and having a filter sealed to the bottom of each well so that any fluid exiting the well through the lower surface must pass through the filter, the collection plate containing a series of wells formed through a portion of the thickness of the plate from its top surface, the filtration plate being placed on top of the collection plate so that the wells of the plates are in register with each other and form a continuous path between a well of the filtration plate and the corresponding well of the collection plate, an evaporation control device in the form of a sheet material having a top surface, a bottom surface and a thickness between, the sheet containing a series of holes equal in number and spacing with the wells of the filtration plate and collection plate so as to be in register with both, the sheet being interposed between the bottom surface of the filtration plate and the top surface of the collection plate and the filtration plate, collection plate and evaporation control device are mounted on the centrifuge.

2) (Canceled)

3) (Canceled)

4) (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the sheet containing a series of holes equal in number and spacing with the wells of the filtration plate and collection plate so as to be in register with both plates and the holes being slightly larger in diameter than the wells of the plates.

5) (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a cover formed of a top surface and a skirt that extends downwardly from the top surface of the cover on all sides of the plate assembly to a point below the thickness of the filtration plate and at least a portion of the thickness of the collection plate.

6) (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a cover formed of a top surface and a skirt that extends downwardly the entire combined thickness of the two plates.

7) (Canceled)

8) (Canceled)

9) (Canceled)

10) (Canceled)

11) (Canceled)

12) (Canceled)

13) (Canceled)

14) (Previously Presented) An evaporation control system for a multiwell filtration plate used in centrifugal filtration comprising a centrifuge, a filtration plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, a collection plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, the filtration plate containing a series of wells running through the thickness of the plate and having a filter sealed to the bottom of each well so that any fluid exiting the well through the lower surface must pass through the filter, the collection plate containing a series of wells formed through a portion of the thickness of the plate from its top surface, the filtration plate being placed on top of the collection plate so that the wells of the plates are in register with each other and form a continuous path between a well of the filtration plate and the corresponding well of the collection plate, an interface being formed between the filtration plate and the collection plate where their bottom and top surfaces respectively mate and a cover formed of a top surface and a skirt that extends downwardly from the top surface of the cover on all sides of the filtration and collection plate to a point below the interface and wherein the filtration and collection plate and cover are mounted on the centrifuge.

15) (Original) The cover system of claim 14 wherein the skirt extends the entire combined thickness of the two plates.

16) (Original) The cover system of claim 14 wherein the skirt extends to a point half (50%) the thickness of the collection plate.

17) (Original) The cover system of claim 14 wherein the skirt extends to a point two thirds (66.67%) the thickness of the collection plate.

18) (Original) The cover system of claim 14 wherein the skirt extends to a point three quarters (75%) the thickness of the collection plate.

19) (Previously Presented) An evaporation control system for a multiwell filtration plate used in centrifugal filtration comprising a centrifuge, a filtration plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, a collection plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, the filtration plate containing a series of wells running through the thickness of the plate and having a filter sealed to the bottom of each well so that any fluid exiting the well through the lower surface must pass through the filter, the collection plate containing a series of wells formed through a portion of the thickness of the plate from its top surface, the filtration plate being placed on top of the collection plate so that the wells of the plates are in register with each other and form a continuous path between a well of the filtration plate and the corresponding well of the collection plate, an interface being formed between the filtration plate and the collection plate where their bottom and top surfaces respectively mate, a first evaporation control device being formed of a sheet material interposed between the bottom surface of the filtration plate and the top surface of the collection plate, the sheet having a top surface, a bottom surface and a thickness between, the sheet containing a series of holes equal in number and spacing with the wells of the filtration plate and collection plate so as to be in register with both, a second evaporation control device being formed as a cover formed of a top surface and a skirt that extends downwardly from the top surface of the cover on all sides of the cover to a point below the interface of the two plates and wherein the filtration plate, collection plate and first and second evaporation control devices are mounted on the centrifuge.

20) (Previously Presented) A process for reducing evaporation in a multiwell filtration plate used in centrifugal filtration comprising:

a. providing a centrifuge,
b. providing a filtration plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, a collection plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, the filtration plate containing a series of wells running through the thickness of the plate and having a filter sealed to the bottom of each well so that any fluid exiting the well through the lower surface must pass through the filter, the collection plate containing a series of wells formed through a portion of the thickness of the plate from its top surface, the filtration plate being placed on top of the collection plate so that the wells of the plates are in register with each other and form a continuous path between a well of the filtration plate and the corresponding well of the collection plate, an evaporation control device in the form of a sheet material interposed between the bottom surface of the filtration and the top surface of the collection plate,
c. adding a fluid to be centrifugally filtered to one or more wells of the filtration plate,

d. mounting the filtration plate, collection plate and evaporation control device on the centrifuge and
e. conducting centrifugal filtration.

21) (Previously Presented) In a device for centrifugal filtration having a centrifuge, and an assembly of a filtration plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, a collection plate having a top and bottom surface and a thickness between, the filtration plate containing a series of wells running through the thickness of the plate and having a filter sealed to the bottom of each well so that any fluid exiting the well through the lower surface must pass through the filter, the collection plate containing a series of wells formed through a portion of the thickness of the plate from its top surface, the filtration plate being placed on top of the collection plate so that the wells of the plates are in register with each other and form a continuous path between a well of the filtration plate and the corresponding well of the collection plate mounted to the centrifuge, the improvement comprising an evaporation control device selected from the group consisting of a sheet material interposed between the bottom surface of the filtration and the top surface of the collection plate and a cover formed of a top surface and a skirt that extends downwardly from a top surface of the cover on all sides of the cover to a point below an interface of the filtration and collection plates.